



02 FEB 2016

21 Icons: Terry Pheto

The 19th short film in the multimedia series 21 Icons Season III celebrates South African actress Terry Pheto.

She had a starring role in the Academy-Award winning film Tsotsi, a recurring role in the long-running US soap opera The Bold and the Beautiful, and started her own production company five years ago. And Terry Pheto's star continues to rise.

Apart from the strides she has made in her career, Terry has also started producing her own work with the goal of pushing the agenda of women in film and broader society.

(HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/MBLIFE) (MAIL TO: 21ICONS@MBLIFE.CO.ZA)
 BUTTON URL=HTTPS://WWW.MBLIFE.CO.ZA/21ICONS/2016/02/02/PEOPLE-TO-WATCH/21-ICONS-TERRY-PHETO/&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=21icons
 19TH TO- 3A%
 SHORT WATCH/21TERRY%
 FILM IN ICONS/20PHETO&B
 THE ICONS- 20PHETO%
 MULTIME TERRY- 2019TH%
 SERIES (PHETO/) 20SHORT%
 21 20FILM%
 ICONS 20IN%
 SEASON 20THE%
 LLL 20MULTIMEE
 CELEBRATES 20SERIES%
 SOUTH 2021%
 AFRICAN 20ICONS%
 ACTRESS 20SEASON%
 TERRY 20LLL%
 PHETO. 20CELEBRA
 @MBLIFE_SA&URL=HTTPS://WWW.MBLIFE.CO.ZA/20AFRICAN%
 TO- 20ACTRESS%
 MARCH21 20TERRY%
 ICONS- 20PHETO.%
 TERRY- 0D%0A%
 PHETO 0D%
 0AHTTP%
 3A%2F%
 2FWWWW.MBL
 2FPEOPLE-
 TO-
 WATCH%
 2F21-
 ICONS-
 TERRY-
 PHETO%
 2F)

She explains the importance of being a role model for women: "I never had anyone in the industry who was a mentor. No one told me anything when I was starting out. I want to be that person to others."

Born in Evaton township in 1981, Terry had her first stint in the spotlight when she was cast in a school musical tribute at the age of 10.

"It was at that moment I realised you can become someone else. It's possible and there's power in that - there's power in being able to be someone else and just forget about yourself. I was hooked from then on."

Terry was raised in a shack, and after matriculating she studied Information Technology for two semesters but was unable to complete her studies for financial reasons.

"I wasn't able to go to the best schools, but that has never stopped me from learning every day from every person I meet. The minute you stop learning, you might as well die," she says.

Terry convinced her mother to let her move to Soweto to join the Soweto Community Theatre Group, where two months later she was discovered by talent scout Moonyeenn Lee.

After a year of auditions she was cast as the leading female role in Tsotsi directed by Gavin Hood, which won Best Foreign Language Film at the 78th Academy Awards.

"While we were filming Tsotsi I didn't know it was going to have such an impact - that it was going to make history," she says.

"My work gives me permission to fulfil each and every wish I had as a kid. Every little dream I've ever had, I'm in the position to make

happen for myself - even if it's just for two hours."

In 2010, Terry started the production company Leading Lady Productions and produced her first film, *Ayanda and the Mechanic* with Fulu Moguvhani in the title role, in 2014. The film pushes gender boundaries and explores the role of women in today's society.

"I've always know there's a life span when it comes to being in front of the camera - especially for women - and I wanted to be a storyteller, not just as an actor," she explains.

Terry is one of the first South African artist ambassadors for Save the Children South Africa, which aims to ensure that every child - especially the most vulnerable - attains the right to education, survival, protection, development and participation.

On the future of South Africa, Terry says, "Knowing that with all the scars we have there's still hope, there's still love, and there's still a need for us to be present and stand up for what's right. You can be whoever you want to be. You have to believe in and trust yourself. If you can imagine it, there's no reason why you can't have it. There is room for all of us to chase our dreams."

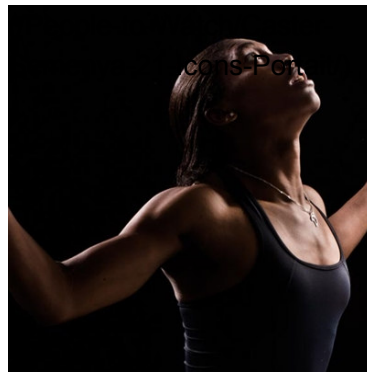
Watch Terry's interview here:

For more 21 Icons, click here. (<http://www.mblife.co.za/People-to-Watch/>)



28 JAN 2016

Kopano Matlwa Mabaso: 21 Icons Portrait (</People-to-Watch/Kopano-Matlwa-Mabaso-21-Icons-Portrait/>)



18 JAN 2016

Caster Semenya: 21 Icons Portrait (</People-to-Watch/Caster-Semenya-21-Icons-Portrait/>)



25 JAN 2016

21 Icons: Kopano Matlwa Mabaso (</People-to-Watch/21-Icons-Kopano-Matlwa-Mabaso/>)

Keep me informed:

Subscribe to our newsletter.

